(b) In the Red Fort, the Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the Naubat Khana, Diwan-i-Aam, Mumtaz Mahal, Rang Mahal, Baithak, Musamman Burj, Diwan-i-Khas, Moti Masjid, Sawan Bhadon, Shah burj and Hamam, the appurtenant gardens and some portions of the fortification wall.

The Meena Bazar area is under the control of the Delhi Municipal Corporation. The rest of the Fort is under the care of the Ministry of Defence.

(c) The conservation measures taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India on the protected monuments in the Red Fort are consistent with available historical evidence and archaeological norms.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In addition to regular maintenance of the Red Fort, structural conservation, chemical treatment and environmental development is an ongoing process subject to the availability of funds.

WHO loans for Wild Life Protection

†1714. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loan sanctioned by the World Bank for implementation of schemes for Joint Forest Management and the Wild Life protection;

(b) the number of instalments of such loan released by the World Bank for Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) what are the reasons for withholding the instalments; if any, and the details of amount spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Central Govt. has approved a World Bank aided project namely, "India Eco-Development Project" with an approved

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

outlay of Rs 294.93 crores for seven States including Madhya Pradesh. The main components of the project are:

1. Improved Protected Area Management

2. Village Eco Development

The Project is participatory in approach and lays emphasis on special programmes for joint forest management support.

(b) and (c) The loan is released on the basis of reimbursement of actual expenditure. The total outlay of the project for Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 27.90 crores against which Rs. 5.64 crores has been released. Therefore, the question of withholding the instalment does not arise.

Decline in Tiger Population

1715. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the last 100 years, tiger, population in the country has declined by 95 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for this decline;

(c) whether Government would institute an inquiry into this sharp decline and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating for preservation of tigers considered to be symbol of well-preserved national eco-system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No authentic data about the tiger population at the turn of last centuary is available. Therefore, it is not possible to state the decline of tiger population in last 100 years, in terms of percentage of population at the turn of last centuary. However, the tiger population has declined significantly over this period.

(b) The main reasons of decline of the tiger population are (1) explosion of human population (2) multi-fold increase of live-stock (3) shrinkage of wildlife habitat (4) large scale hunting for sports prior to Independence (5) illegal poaching and trade in supply of tiger parts for consumption outside the country.

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